

# SPRINGSTIMES

Your Sandy Springs News Source

## Greetings!



There is good news and soul searching in the City of Sandy Springs.

For the good news, it is now public knowledge that the City of Sandy Springs will inherit the Miles property for a passive park. It is a 26-acre preserve containing oaks more than 300 years old, wonderful wildflowers and a lovely cabin. This is a very generous gift by Mrs. Miles, who presently lives on the property at the corner of Dalrymple and Brandon Mill Roads. Her dream is to have her property preserved as a public facility for generations to come.

In order to secure Mrs. Miles' livelihood, the trustees who are advising her have determined that funds must be set aside to ensure her income for the rest of her life. The Trust for Public Land, which has been involved in the negotiations, will be responsible for securing the necessary funds. The City of Sandy Springs signed a letter of intent to the Trust that the City shall be responsible for \$500,000. The Friends of Sandy Springs, a nonprofit organization that accepts donations for enhancing public safety and parks in Sandy Springs, will be assisting in this endeavor.

Now, for the soul searching—the budget. There is no other issue that is as difficult for elected officials as to choose among so many different needs. At this writing, the Council is in the midst of weighing a variety of requests, which together vastly exceeds available funds. Decisions are guided, of course, by the requirement in the City Charter that taxes cannot be raised without assent of the voters.

Some of the issues with which we are struggling are: resurfacing roads that are in the worst shape, or developing park land that is still in a state of wilderness (The Big Park at Morgan Falls); using more resources to pick up litter on busy arteries, or doing an aerial survey of our tree canopy; or lessening traffic congestion by adding turn lanes at busy intersections, or adding more sidewalks.

Over and above such questions are the big-ticket items: Do residents want a city hall complex or would they rather see major traffic congestion tackled, like the Roswell Road bottleneck? And do residents want a city hall in the center of town, where the land is expensive, or would they settle for a more economical site?

When you read this newsletter, the deliberations and soul searching by Council will nearly be over and a budget is slated for adoption on June 19. We hope to do you proud in one of the most difficult tasks voters can delegate.

Mayor Eva Galambos, Ph.D.  
City of Sandy Springs

## Festival Fun for All

This year's Sandy Springs Festival will be held September 15-16, 2007. The event is a yearly fundraiser benefiting Heritage Sandy Springs, a non-profit organization. Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, the two-day event features live entertainment, children's rides, heritage education, artists' market, collector car show, food court and more! The event kicks off with a 10K road race, which is a Peachtree Road Race qualifier. The Sandy Springs Festival supports the mission and activities of Heritage Sandy Springs. For more information, visit the Festival Web site [www.sandyspringsfestival.com](http://www.sandyspringsfestival.com).



**SANDY SPRINGS**  
GEORGIA

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# Changes Allow for Quicker Permitting

Homeowners, builders and developers are integral to the development of our busy and growing City and therefore the City has made efforts to trim time waiting for permits while also making the best use of our staff time. Effective immediately, to allow for quicker permitting for applications, several changes in the permitting process will be implemented.

- For residential interior work only or repair with no footprint or elevation changes: once the application is submitted and after staff verifies FEMA flood zones do not apply, the permit will be issued without a building plan review. If a FEMA flood zone applies, a permit can be issued after flood ordinance related items are addressed. Building inspectors will continue to inspect construction to verify code compliance.
- For residential modifications affecting the footprint or elevation, decks or new homes: staff will review applications to determine if any of the following issues apply: flood zone, Atlanta River Corridor, stream buffers, tree impact and/or zoning issues. If staff is able to confirm that none of these issues apply to the application, the application will undergo a quick site review. Applicants can assist in making this determination by providing photographs of the site, copies of applicable plats and zoning cases. Building inspectors will continue to inspect construction to verify code compliance.
- For residential modifications affecting the footprint or elevation, decks or new homes: with flood, Atlanta River Corridor, site, tree or planning and zoning issues, there will be a normal site review, and if there are no comments a permit will be issued. If there are comments, the application must be resubmitted and go through the process again until there are no more comments and the permit is issued.
- For town homes, condos and duplexes: the process remains the same as the existing process, except building plan review is limited to fire separation, accurate code references and International Residential Code versus International Building Code verification. Building inspectors will continue to inspect construction to verify code compliance.

Future improvements under consideration include assigning a customer service representative to applicants to act as a project manager for novices negotiating the permit process. Also for larger projects, a fee-based expedited review service with available standing review meeting times and assigned staff project managers may be developed.

Reviewing applications and performing building and site inspections in the field protects homeowners and the public by verifying building code compliance while also fostering quality construction in our City. Maintaining a comprehensive site plan review process reduces the risk of adverse impacts on neighbors and also provides a site plan document that enables responsible development.

For more information on permitting or the City of Sandy Springs, visit [www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org) or call 770-730-5600.



*The friendly faces at the permitting counter are ready to assist you with the new changes.*

## Sandy Springs Sewer Maintained by Fulton County

Fulton County owns and controls the sewer system in Sandy Springs.



Fulton County's policy on sewer line repair and maintenance is as follows:

Fulton County is only responsible for maintaining and repairing the sewer main. Sewer mains are the sewer lines that connect all the homes and businesses together. For example, the sewer line that runs along the street is Fulton County's responsibility. Fulton County does not maintain or repair the sewer lateral from the building to the sewer main, regardless of whether the lateral is located on private or public property. The sewer lateral that runs from your house to the sewer main in the road is the sewer customer's responsibility.

This sewer policy is uniform for Sandy Springs and unincorporated Fulton County. For more information contact Fulton County Public Works at 404-730-7400.

If you or your contractor has sewer work within Sandy Springs' right-of-way or streets, please contact Sandy Springs Public Works for any notice and permit requirements. In the event of an emergency repair, reasonable action for repair is allowed for the preservation of life and property, but notice to Sandy Springs at 770-730-5600 is still required.



# Travels to Mozambique & Israel Hit Home



*SSFRD Medical Director Dr. Ian Greenwald was part of a group that traveled to Mozambique to help establish City policies that govern emergency medical care.*

The City of Sandy Springs is lucky to have had two of its public safety officials make overseas trips to benefit the City while also making the world a better and safer place.

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Medical Director Dr. Ian Greenwald traveled to Maputo, Mozambique in March to consult for the World Health Organization (WHO) on setting up an EMS/Fire service in the country's capital city. The team of physicians met with the Maputo City Council regarding the EMS agenda.

"They are very enthusiastic about providing EMS care for their City of more than two million people," said Dr. Greenwald. "We also provided 20 hours of instruction for physicians who see all the trauma cases for the city in the Maputo Public Hospital. Also on our agenda were educational sessions for these physicians for trauma care and burn victims. It was a very productive trip."

The group travels to Africa about three times a year through a federal grant. Participants are chosen based on their specialty. Dr. Greenwald's specialty is EMS development. Last year the group traveled to Mozambique to do the needs assessment. This year they are doing the follow-up on several initiatives.

"The short-term goals of the trip were to establish City policies that govern emergency medical care while in the process identify key local physicians who can champion the cause and further identify international donors for the police and fire departments' needs for the coming years" added Dr. Greenwald. "There were many lessons that we brought home too. It is inspirational to work with people who are so bright and motivated and despite their limited resources are capable of accomplishing so much."

The group met their goals of education, meetings with stakeholders and to train doctors on key public health emergency medical and trauma initiatives. Another aspect of the program was to interview doctors who will travel to the United States and Emory University Rollins School of Public Health to be trained in public health so they may take what is learned back to their country.

In May, Sandy Springs Police Lt. Trudi Vaughn traveled to Israel as part of the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE). GILEE began in May 1992 and is a joint project of Georgia State University and the police force of the State of Israel. The objectives are:

1. To enhance inter-agency cooperation between State of Georgia law enforcement agencies and the Israeli police;
2. To offer an educational professional program to senior Israeli law enforcement officials in Georgia, primarily in the area of community policing; and
3. To offer an educational professional program to senior Georgia law enforcement officials in Israel, primarily in the areas of counter-terrorism and drug interdiction.

"This is a big honor for me," Lt. Vaughn said. "It is very humbling that the chief chose me. I am very proud to be the first one from the Sandy Springs Police Department to be selected to go to Israel and be a part of this wonderful learning and training opportunity."

*Continued on page 4, see "World Travel"*



*Blowing grass clippings into the street causes problems with stormwater drainage.*

## Mow But Don't Blow into Our Streets!

It's that time when mowers and blowers have begun their yearly ritual. While it is much easier to blow grass clippings into the streets, it is detrimental to the environment as well as our stormwater drainage system. The City of Sandy Springs has more than 4,000 drainage structures in the streets, and last year alone we performed costly maintenance on 700 of them to clean them out. When grass, leaves, pine straw and other yard waste enters these basins, it inhibits the flow of water creating hazards such as flash flooding from sudden downbursts. It is essential that you bag your yard waste into brown bags sold at most home and hardware stores in order to care for our little piece of the environment called Sandy Springs!

If you see someone blowing yard waste into the road, please call the Citizen Response Center at 770-730-5600, and report it. This is against the Land Development and Environmental Protection Ordinance, Chapter 14-2005-12-12. This ordinance also prohibits illicit discharge of illegal connections into the storm sewer system, such as draining fluids from vehicles. The entire ordinance may be viewed on the City's Web site at [www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org).

*World Travel, continued from page 3*



*Lt. Trudi Vaughn of the SSPD traveled to Israel as part of a law enforcement exchange program.*

Lt. Vaughn traveled throughout the country learning the history of Israel, security measures, communications procedures, counterterrorism tactics and other law enforcement techniques that she is putting into practice since returning home. Her specialty is terrorism and identifying "soft targets" within the City, such as mass transit, and how to avert the dangers of an attack.

Lt. Vaughn is one of 16 Americans that traveled to Israel. She came to the Sandy Springs Police Department from the Fulton County Police Department, where she served 14 years. While there, she served three years on a joint terrorism task force with the FBI working on international terrorism. In August, the group Lt. Vaughn trained with will come to the US to study our community policing policies

## Parks Receive Grants, Adds Amenities

New grant funding to the City of Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department means additions and new amenities at two of our 11 parks. One welcome addition is an enlargement of the Island Ford section of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation area. The City obtained a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to add approximately two miles of trails to those already in existence in this 67-acre area. Visitors to Island Ford already enjoy picnicking, canoeing and watching wildlife. Now, they are able to enjoy a little more hiking and access to fishing from the new trails.

The most extensive addition to the park system in Sandy Springs will become a reality with the development of the Morgan Falls Riverpark. This is a 27-acre property near the Georgia Power Company dam. The Power Company recently signed a long-term lease with the City that incorporates their property at the boat ramp into this park. At present, a timeline for construction and plan for amenities has yet to be determined.



## City Enters Agreement with MARTA



*Bus shelters like this one in the City will be replaced over the course of the next several years.*

The City of Sandy Springs has entered a 10-year intergovernmental agreement with MARTA to participate in a Bus Shelter advertising program. Participation in this program will provide replacement of bus shelters more than 10 years old. Councilmember Dianne Fries offered the substitute motion which passed that eliminated six "town center" shelters from the agreement. These shelters will be maintained by the City, and their design will be more consistent with the streetscape in the area.

**Now You Can  
Recycle Much  
More Than  
Just Your Old  
Newspapers!!**

The Morgan Falls Recycling Center at 470 Morgan Falls Road now accepts old cell phones and any type of batteries. Items can be dropped off 24 hours a day. Goodwill donations are also taken at the center during working hours. Solvents and household cleaners can be disposed of by opening the containers, away from areas that are reachable by children and pets, and allowing them to evaporate. Once liquids have evaporated, empty containers can now be recycled. Unused paint can be solidified by adding sawdust or cat litter. The mixture can be disposed of in the trash and the clean containers can be recycled. Used motor oil can be recycled at most commercial oil change locations, however fertilizers are not taken there or at the recycling center.

The recycling center is conveniently located a quarter mile west of Roswell Road. For more information, call 770-551-7766.

